

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 15, No. 4

OCTOBER, 1946

EDWARD K. LOVE TRIBUTE

On Friday, November 15, the St. Louis Bird Club will pay tribute to Edward K. Love, recipient of this year's Annual St. Louis Bird Club Conservation Citation. This is the second year of this citation, last year's recipient being Sterling P. Jones. Mr. Love is well known as a leader in the conservation movement in the United States. He is an ardent advocate of the extension of conservation education, in the firm belief that greater knowledge of the facts will result in wiser use of our natural resources. His work toward that end has set an inspiring example to others. John Storer's conservation film is an ideal program for the occasion.



Edward K. Love

LEONARD HALL LECTURE

Leonard Hall, loyal member and Director of the St. Louis Bird Club, starts off our new series of "Local Programs" with a slide-illustrated talk on "The Conservation Question". Mr. Hall's first-hand experience as farmer, sportsman and observant naturalist make him an authoritative speaker on the vital problem of land use and its relations to wildlife conservation. There are so many Leonard Hall "fans" that it might be wise to come early in order to get a good

OUR LIVING EARTH

John H. Storer in his new film tells a story which is of the utmost importance to all of us: the meaning and importance of conservation. It is a film which everyone should see because it presents so graphically a problem which our civilization must face and one which it must solve if it is to survive. Through the medium of brilliant color movies Mr. Storer portrays the process whereby many early civilizations became ruins buried in the deserts of China, Africa and western Asia, deserts which once were among the garden spots of the world. Today that same process of land destruction is going on at the fastest rate in human history—hastened by a growing demand which encounters the shrinking supply. John Storer has created a dramatic document, using all the camera's ability to catch and transcribe beauty and color and life in nature, from the magic building of a plant to the graceful flight of birds. Ours is a **living earth**. . . . Don't miss this date on November 15. You will find it a real experience in nature.

seat. Time: October 25, 8:15 P. M. Place: Brown Hall, Washington University.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| November | 15 | —"Our Living Earth": John H. Storer of Boston |
| December | 5 | —"Saguaroland": Karl H. Maslowski of Cincinnati |
| January | 16 | —"Animals Unaware": Howard Cleaves of New York |
| February | 21 | —"Where the West Begins": Alfred M. Bailey of Denver |
| March | 31 | —"Lakelore": Howard L. Orians of Milwaukee |
| April | 22 | —"Field Guide to the Familiar": Roger Tory Peterson of New York |

All Screen Tours at Soldan High School, 8:15 P. M.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 15, No. 4

October, 1946

OFFICERS

President.....Wayne Short
Vice-President.....Luther Ely Smith
Secretary.....Myron Northrop
Treasurer.....Eithel Wolfe
Executive Secretary.....S. B. Heckler
1207 N. 7th St., CEntal 0631

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sterling P. Jones, Acting Editor
Linus Hoffmeister James Earl Comfort

CLUB'S DOUBLE PROGRAM

This year the St. Louis Bird Club expands its activities to include a "Local Program" as well as the Audubon Screen Tours. Under the new plan Screen Tour memberships are separate from other types of membership; and are either \$2.00 or \$5.00 for the full season, which includes seven of the finest programs we have ever had. A \$5.00 Screen Tour member receives a reserved seat. The Local Program is open to all active, regular, and sustaining members. Active membership has been reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.00. Regular and sustaining members are joint members with the National Audubon Society, as well; and of course receive Audubon Magazine. The Local Programs are designed to supplement the Audubon Screen Tour color movie lectures, and will be somewhat more local and more intimate in nature. The Bird Club's constant growth has been due largely to the "advertising" of our own members, telling others about our top-quality programs which bring the out-of-doors indoors, programs both interesting and educational at the same time. We do hope that you will continue to help us enroll new members. If you should have any further questions about this new membership arrangement, please call Mr. Heckler at Club headquarters, CEntal 0631.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

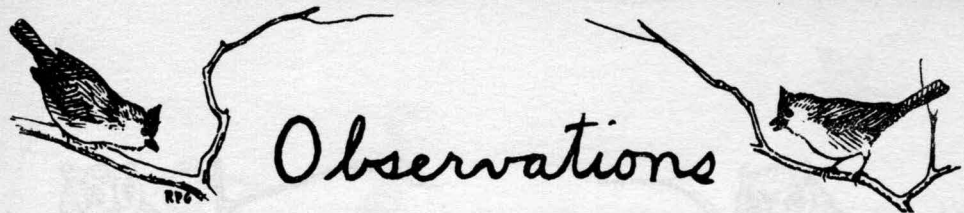
A generous member has made it possible for the St. Louis Bird Club to offer two groups of prize awards for excellence in wildlife photography. First prize is \$25.00; second, \$15.00; third, \$10.00. For children under 15, first prize of \$10.00; second prize, \$5.00; third prize, \$5.00. There is a never growing interest in this challenging and worthwhile phase of photography and nature study, and the Bird Club is pleased to be able to encourage its pursuit. The contest is open to all residents within 50 miles of St. Louis, though there is no restriction as to where the pictures are taken. Contest closes April 1, 1947. Prize winners will be exhibited at the Annual Meeting in May. To enter, call Bird Club headquarters, CEntal 0631.

"WAY DOWN UPON . . ."

The Suwannee River was the theme of the evening of October 7, at Soldan High, when Allan Cruickshank presented his film "South Along the Suwannee". Mr. Cruickshank was introduced by Mr. G. Alex Hope. Before the lecture soft strains of Stephen Foster formed a fitting musical background to this colorful and stimulating program. All along this famous stream, from its source in the "land of the trembling earth" to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico we looked in upon its teeming wildlife, the alligators which keep the poisonous snakes under control; the birds that fish in its waters; and those that live and fly along its course; the Seminole Indians with their brilliant costumes and their unique game of see-saw. A highlight was the sequence of the egret fishing from the swinging rope. Mr. Cruickshank's fine imitations of bird calls, coupled with his sense of humor added to an already superlative evening.

LOCAL PROGRAM

- Oct. 25—"The Conservation Question": Leonard Hall. Brown Hall, Washington Univ.
Nov. 25—"Wildlife by the Wayside": Rev. George M. Link. Brown Hall, Washington University.
Jan. 3—"Adventures in Wildlife Painting": R. P. Grossenheider. Jefferson Memorial.
Feb. 3—"Browsing with Birdiana": Gertrude Drury. Public Library, 13th and Olive.
Mar. 7—"Indoor Field Trip": Elizabeth Golterman-Marvin Beckmann. Div. Audio-Visual Educ., 4466 Olive St.
Apr. 11—"A Look at Birds": Wayne Short. Academy of Science, 4642 Lindell.
May 19—ANNUAL MEETING. "Out-of-doors in New England": Carl W. Buchheister. Brown Hall, Washington University.



The spring warbler migration this year was about normal, with a shorter stay in this area, however, by the late migrating species, according to accounts of observers. Savannah and vesper sparrows were more numerous than usual; and among the sharp-tailed sparrows the Leconte's, grasshopper and Henslow's were reported fairly often.

* * *

Outstanding finds on the Spring Census on May 5th were: white pelican, duck hawk, western whist, Wilson's phalarope, Hooded, Cape May, Sycamore, and Connecticut warblers, blue grosbeak, and clay-colored sparrow.

* * *

Good observations of shore birds during the spring were: white-rumped sandpiper at Creve Coeur Lake; and western sandpiper, black-bellied plover and red-backed sandpipers in breeding plumage in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties.

* * *

The Zempels found a greater scaup duck in St. Charles County; and, in company with Mrs. Miles Hopkins, they had a pine siskin in Forest Park.

* * *

Earl Comfort found one of the subspecies of the Oregon Junco in Glendale in early May.

* * *

The most remarkable migration deviation this year was the early appearance of shore birds on their southward journey. Some species arrived in good numbers as early as the middle of July. By August 1st these birds were seen in astounding numbers at Creve Coeur Lake, and elsewhere. Good fall shore birds not reported in the spring migration were long-billed dowitcher, and Baird's and stilt sandpipers.

Jack Van Benthuyzen observed two short-eared owls in Webster Groves on August 4; and Earl Comfort found a yellow-crowned night heron in Glendale on the same day.

* * *

During August Snowy egrets appeared in St. Louis County near St. Charles in such numbers that they ceased to be a rarity, as in most years. On one occasion as many as 15 were counted in one group.

* * *

Horned grebes were reported in both spring and fall seasons.

* * *

Bachman's sparrows nested at the H. B. Comfort farm at Bourbon, Missouri, just outside of the 50-mile St. Louis area radius.

* * *

Caspian terns were very common at Creve Coeur in late August and early September.

* * *

Fall ducks appeared early, most of them still in eclipse plumage. Early migrants were mallards, pintails, black ducks, and blue-winged and green-winged teal.

* * *

The following species of fall migrant warblers were unusually numerous; red-starts, black and white, chestnut-sided, Canada, Nashville, black-throated green and Blackburnian.

* * *

Beulah Bedell, Ellen Cone, Hattie Ettinger and Frances Pickel vacationed in the Adirondacks where they certainly had good birding: a nesting loon family, Arctic three-toed woodpecker, brown-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, winter wren, etc.

WILL YOU SEE FLOCKS OF GEESE THIS FALL?

The alarming decrease of Canada geese along the Mississippi flyway has pointed up the fact that we still have much to learn about the migration habits of this spectacular bird. In order to gain this information great numbers of careful observations must be made and recorded. In order to make the observations easier to record and study, special forms have been made up, obtainable by sending a postcard to: George C. Arthur, Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Meanwhile, if you see flocks of geese, jot down the date, time, species, size of flock, locality, direction of flight, other conditions such as weather, etc. Be sure not to overlook any night migrations you might hear. Club members are urged to cooperate in this research project, since all such knowledge will be of the utmost importance in efforts to restore the abundance of the Canada geese.



Who's Who?



As Leonard Hall moves to a new and larger farm a bit nearer the Ozarks, we are pleased to know that "Possum Trot Farm" remains in the Bird Club, since its new owners are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kelley.

* * *

Marion Freer visited St. Louis during October in time to attend the Allan Cruickshank program.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. William Holzmark are the proud parents of Barbara Louise, who will no doubt soon be out on field trips.

* * *

The St. Louis Bird Club is well represented at the University of Missouri this year: Jack Battenberg, Bill Dierker, Emerson Finney, Bob Hecht, Jim Jackson, Ed Lebeau and Donald Morgan are at St. Louis University.

* * *

Sterling P. Jones has been busy writing a new section to add to the third edition of the Jones Check List. It is a monograph on the bluebird, State Bird of Missouri. The first and second editions have been completely sold out; and it is hoped that this new edition will be off the presses by early winter.

* * *

Dick Grossenheider's paintings of white-footed deer mice are scheduled to be featured in the October 28 issue of Life Magazine. Dick has also been commissioned to paint a series of paintings of "lories", which, we understand, are colorful brush-tongued parrots of the Australasian area, which is where he was stationed while in service. And Audubon Magazine has announced that three of its covers next year are to be mammal paintings by the same "Richard P. Grossenheider". Such recognition of his fine work speaks for itself.

St. Louis did "all right" by Audubon Camp this year: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Palm, Mrs. Joseph E. Vollmar, Vivion Henry, Ethel Von Hahn and Helen Henke.

* * *

Wayne Short and Syd Heckler encountered two other Club members, Bishop and Mrs. William Scarlett two thousand miles away—at Bonaventure Island, Canada. They visited with Bert Harwell, who was taking color movies of the bird life there—pictures which we shall be seeing here no doubt next season.

* * *

Among those who attended the Missouri Audubon Society's convention at Lake of the Ozarks were Beulah Bedell, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Comfort, Ellen Cone, Susan Grummann, Vivion Henry, Jim Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Klinkerfuss, Frances Pickel, Mildred Reese, Dick Reichle, Jack Van Benthuyssen, Ethel Von Hahn.

* * *

Francis MacNutt regrets not being able to attend Club programs this year; but Harvard is just a little too far for him to make it.

* * *

Anne Desloge, daughter of Club member Joseph Desloge, was chosen Queen of Love and Beauty at the Veiled Prophet Ball, October 8.

* * *

We are certainly sorry to lose Dr. and Mrs. Zempel, who have left St. Louis and are now living in Arlington, Virginia.

* * *

A "bird" tells us that James Earl Comfort leads the field in the race for top birder of the year.